

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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Department of State

CONFIDENTIAL

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Action

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FROM: London

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TO: Secretary of State

GER

NO: 5234, May 20, 4 p.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 5234, REPEATED INFORMATION MUNICH 19.

OCB

CODEL--KERSTEN

CIA

OSD

ARMY

AIR

USIS here has received cables from Munich radio center (TOPAO 13, May 18 and TOPAO 14 May 19) advising Kersten committee hearings London June 14-19 will be covered by VOA and requesting facilities for filing to Munich and New York of stories, including tape-recorded statements, daily through hearing week. Maximum coverage for this priority project, in view of its importance to MRCs target area, is requested.

MRC had also made direct request to BBC for wire facilities. In consequence, BBC have asked Embassy for news story.

British Government gave its agreement, after careful cabinet consideration and decision by Prime Minister, that Kersten committee members might hold interviews in UK provided:

(1) No formal public hearings be held, and inquiry was conducted inconspicuously, without publicity; and

(2) Findings were not publicized while committee was in UK (EMBTel 4793 April 29) DEPTel 5897 May 6 and Department instruction A-1004 May 13 informed us committee agreed to these (and other) conditions.

I feel strongly that we should not thus directly and extensively violate the agreed conditions.

ALDRICH

EL:HMR/16

State Dept. review completed